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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Paraguay

SUBJECT Description of Road from Asunción to Paraná River

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

25X1X

ORR NO.	
DAS NO.	
OCI NO.	

DATE DISTR. 11-MAY-54

NO. OF PAGES 2

3. National Geographic maps show a road running almost due east from Asunción to the Brazilian town of Foz de Iguaçu, but this road does not exist. We had a rough idea of the route to be followed to reach Hernandarias, and despite the urging of all who knew we contemplated the trip, we did not take a guide. Very little information regarding our proposed route could be obtained in Asunción. We carried ample supplies of food and camping equipment. Guns for protection as well as hunting were carried as we were told we might encounter bandits. Inasmuch as it was reported that no gasoline was available in the area where we were to travel, we carried three drums which contained about 120 gallons of gasoline.
4. Following is a detailed account of the trip. The figures given are in miles as the speedometers on the vehicles were in miles. Kilometers are given when marker posts were encountered.

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0. Start
2.6 Zero km marker in Asunción from which distances in Paraguay are computed.
- We left Asunción at 0500 1 Feb 53, and for the first 110 miles we followed the "Ruta" (I know of no other identification) which is one of the two main highways in Paraguay. The first 50 miles of road are of asphalt and would compare roughly to a secondary (state) road in the US.
25. Village of Ypacarai (Yipicaray)
36.7 Village of Caacupe
48.4 Village of Barrero Grande
49.3 End of the asphalt road and beginning of a gravel road which was fairly well maintained, about like a county road in the US.
- The land was gently rolling with an occasional small but fairly prominent hill. A fair portion of the land appeared to be under cultivation near Asunción. Land cultivation is done by such primitive means that it was difficult to determine whether land was cultivated or whether crops were growing wild. The amount of cultivated land decreases as one gets further away from Asunción. In this area most of the houses are of very primitive construction, usually consisting of one or two rooms with dirt floors, walls of poles plastered with mud, and thatched roofs. The roof usually extends beyond the house on one side to provide a shelter for outdoor cooking. Some houses had adobe walls in place of plastered poles. Invariably there was a beehive- or dome-shaped oven about three feet in diameter in the backyard. (See photos 1 and 2).
- 67.0 Village of San José, population about 100. There is a small military post here.
74.2 Marker, 113 kms.
75.4 Stream.
77.6 Stream, flowing north.
81. Trail to left (to Caraguatay?).
83.3 Trail to right (to Coronel Martínez?).
86.2 Junction just south of Coronel Oviedo, turn right.
91.3 Marker, 140 kms.
95.9 Estancia La Candelaria on right.
98.7 Río Ibicuary (spl?), 70 feet wide, crossed by a good highway bridge.
- 103.1 Road to right (to Villarrica via Yataity).
107. Village of Mbocayaty (Mbocayatih).
- Mbocayaty has a population of about 200 and is laid out with a rectangular street plan. The streets are about 75 feet wide from building line to building line. Traffic must go through the town and it would be difficult to go around it.
- Side trip to Villarrica south of Mbocayaty.
- 108.8 Agriculture experiment station on left.
109.4 Stream.
111. Villarrica, a fair-sized town where we replenished our gasoline supply. It has streets laid out in a rectangular pattern, and they are surfaced. It is the headquarters and supply center for the eastern area, 800 to one thousand population.
107. Leave Mbocayaty, going east.
108.5 Small stream, draining to northwest (Arroyo Doña Gervacia?).
110.5 Round hill, 100 feet above road level, 300 yards to right.

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- 110.9 Junction; the main gravel road continues eastward. The road to Hernandarias turns northeastward and is a dirt road with some grading. It is used quite frequently by three-ton trucks which go as far as Caaguazú. Houses are very infrequent after leaving Mboacaty.
- 115.8 Village on left.
- 117.2 Rio Tebicuary, 50 feet wide, flowing west. It is crossed by a fairly good wooden bridge supported on wooden piles.
- 119.5 Village Coronel Troche, entering forest area.
- 123.2 Stream, draining east; logging operation.
- 143.5 Village of Caaguazú. Graded road ends. Entering range land area, mostly open grassland with small forested areas. From here the road deteriorates to a mere trail and in the open range land, it is merely deep ruts worn by high-wheeled ox carts. The jeep became stuck many times on the high center of the road and had to be pulled off by winch and cable to a spot where its wheels could again grip the ground. Through the forest areas the trees had been cleared enough to allow the passage of one vehicle (see Photo 3). There were many mudholes where rain water stands continuously, and it was necessary to winch the vehicles through these places. Numerous small streams were encountered and the only bridges consisted of two half logs laid parallel across the streams and spaced to fit the wheels.
- 153.2 Instituto Geografico Militar (IGM) Monument # W27-PF-6 on right side of road. It is a four-inch bronze tablet set in a concrete post eight inches square and eight inches high.
- 154.2 Small stream, drains east.
- 156.8 Small stream, drains east.
- 161.2 Junction, turn right.
- 164.9 Creek, drains east.
- 165.4 IGM Monument # W27-PF-12 on left side of road.
- 169.3 Enter timber.
- 170.4 Leave timber.
- 171.1 Creek, drains east, crossed by a small inclined trestle wooden bridge in poor condition.
- 171.3 IGM Monument on right at cattle corral.
177. Rio Ytu, 10 feet wide, drains east. It is crossed by a very poor log bridge which is falling apart.
- 177.9 Junction, road (to San Joaquin ?) enters from right.
- 178.2 Village of Ytu, population about 50. There is a hotel, a small "hospital" and facilities for radio communication here. We arrived here about 1800, the major portion of the day having been spent traversing the last 35 miles. We went to the military post and presented a letter we had obtained from the General Staff of the Paraguayan Army requesting the extension of courtesies to us by military men. An armed soldier guard was posted over our camp which we located in a vacant space across the road from the military post.
- We departed from Ytu at 0630. The road for the next 70 miles took us through some of the best range land we had seen in Paraguay. It was gently rolling grassland with some small areas of forest. There appeared to be good forage, but we saw surprisingly few cattle. The area is very sparsely settled with only an occasional ranch house. Villagers in Ytu told us there were rumors of bandits and cattle rustlers in this area.
183. Estancia Laguna Vera, owned by Emilio Langfahn who was very friendly and invited us to stop and visit. The estancia has 5,625 hectares and 400 head of cattle including some Zebu cattle imported from Brazil.

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- 184.7 Swamp with quicksand, crossed by 300 feet of log corduroy road.
 185.1 Swamp with thick gumbo-like mud, crossed by 250 feet of corduroy road. Very rough and hard to cross.
 185.4 Stream, 25 feet wide, drains east.
 186. Shacks. (See Photo 4)
 187. Enter timber.
 189.2 Dense woods. Swamp of about 100 acres area, 100 yards to left.
 198.2 Small clearing with corduroy road.
 198.7 Clearing with swamp which is crossed by a corduroy road. Small house to right of clearing.
 199.3 Stream, drains east.
 203.9 Clearing with house on right, road very bad with many mudholes, enter timber.
 209.9 Clearing, road better.
 211.3 Estancia Bella Vista; it has a number of old buildings scattered around a clearing. (See Photo 5)
 214.9 Swamp crossed by corduroy road.
 215.8 Stream, drains southeast, log loading area. (See Photos 6 - 11)
 216.1 Gate and road junction, turn right.
 218.6 Road to left.
 220.2 Looking southwest over plain. (See Photo 12)
 222.7 Gate in fence running east-west. (See Photo 13)
 223.3 Gate in fence and canal running east-west.
 225.7 Gate in fence running northeast-southeast.
 226.1 Gate to Estancia Los Palermos, house on left. (See Photo 14). This estancia is at the end of the telephone line from Hernandarias and has a telephone. A line of telephone poles parallels the road eastward. (See Photo 15)
 229.1 Gate in fence running northwest-southeast.
 232.3 Stream, three feet wide, drains west.
 232.4 Stream, two feet wide, drains west, crossed by a poor bridge.
 235. Enter timber.
 240. Leave timber.
 240.6 Acaray River, 50 feet wide, flows southeast, good bridge.
 242. Enter timber.
 244.5 Stream three feet wide, flows south, crossed by a good wooden bridge 30 feet long with a very long approach. Stream runs very wide and is full in the rainy season. Beginning of poorly graded road on east side of bridge.
 245.7 Stream, two feet wide, flows south, crossed by a good bridge 30 feet long.
 248.9 Stream, 15 feet wide, flows south.
 249.7 Stream, three feet wide.
 254.3 Village of Itaguary has a military post (See Photo 16) and a small airfield. Beginning of fair road which is used for hauling yerba mate in trucks and ox carts. (See Photo 17)
 254.6 Acaray River, 20 feet wide, flows south.
 261.8 Stream, 10 feet wide, flows south.
 263. Two small bridges over small streams.
 264. Two small bridges over small streams.
 270.1 Stream flows southwest.
 273.1 Stream flows southwest.
 276.8 Stream flows southwest.
 276.9 Stream flows southwest.
 285.8 Stream 25 feet wide, flows southwest.
 288.2 Leave timber.
 290.2 Enter timber.
 297.7 Leave timber.
 308.2 Village of Hernandarias (See Photos 18 - 20). We arrived about 2100. There is a small hotel but the mayor of the village suggested that we camp in his lot where there was less chance of pilferage of our equipment.

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5. We intended ferrying our vehicles across the Acaray River to the village of Presidente Franco where new roads were to be built to serve a proposed colony of displaced Europeans. We found that a barge would have to be constructed to carry the trucks so rather than wait we hired a small boat to take us to Puerto Tacurupucu, about five miles down the river.
6. At Puerto Tacurupucu, which is a port of entry for Paraguay, there is an extremely dilapidated hand-operated marine railway for small boats. (See Photo 21)
7. We crossed the Paraná River here to the Brazilian side at Porto Bella Vista and then secured transportation by wagon to Foz de Iguaçu 17 miles downstream. We then crossed the Iguazú River into Argentina to the town of Eva Perón from where we took a taxi to the Argentine hotel at Iguazú Falls. The Argentine authorities held our passports while we visited the falls and instructed us not to take any pictures of the town of Eva Perón.
8. To return we went back to Eva Perón where we engaged a motor launch to take us up the river to Puerto Tacurupucu. At its junction with the Río Iguazú, the Río Paraná is about two thousand feet wide. It is very fast flowing and the banks slope back at 30 to 45 degrees to a height of about 200 feet above the river. (See Photos 22 - 24). Just above the junction of the Río Paraná and the Río Acaray, the two rivers come within 70 feet of each other and at this point (See Photo 25) the level of the Río Acaray is 100 feet below that of the Paraná. According to the map (USAF Preliminary Base, 1314-A, Villarrica), there is a village at the north end of this narrow strip but this village is actually only a couple of small shacks.
9. When we arrived back at Hernandarias, a small plane arrived from Asunción and we chartered it in order to fly over Presidente Franco, and thence westerly along the road between the Acaray and Monday Rivers. This road winds through the timber for about 60 kms and our flight carried us about 75 kms west of Presidente Franco. This area is gently rolling land and is all heavily forested (See Photos 26 - 30). If the soil is satisfactory the area could probably be developed into good agricultural land when the forest is cleared.
10. The Paraguayan Government has plans to create a road from Coronel Oviedo via Caaguazú to the Paraná River at its junction with the Iguazú River. This projected road would run in almost a straight line east and west and would serve as the communication link for a number of colonies to be established in the area. I do not believe the government intends to appropriate any money for the construction of this road, but it intends to rely upon future colonists in the area to construct it. In view of this I doubt that such a road will ever be constructed.

- end -

LIBRARY SUBJECT AND AREA CODES

154.2	2-
62.10	2-

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To file with report.

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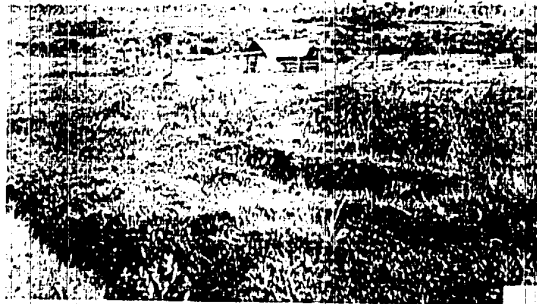


Unaccessioned work prints -

14 accessioned - CIA-121093-121106



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7. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		8. DATE OF REPORT	
<p>(29) Area west of Hernandez</p> <p>wp</p>			
9. DATE OF REPORT		10. DATE OF REPORT	
11. CLASSIFICATION			
12. CAPTURED BY		13. DATE OF REPORT	
FORM 100 SEP 1948 60-53		CAPTION REPORT	



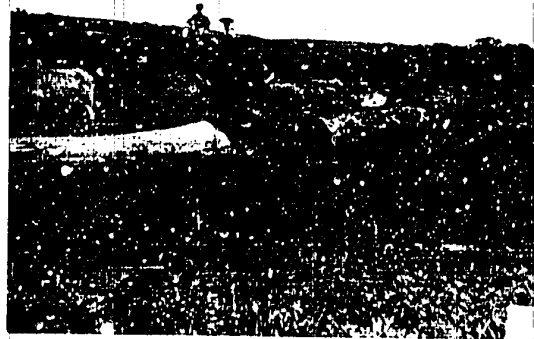
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DATE OF PICTURE		SOURCE OF PICTURE		
CLASSIFICATION				
CAPTIONED BY		VERIFIED BY		
FORM NO. 80-83 SEP 1948				
CAPTION REPORT				



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AREA (AMS NO.)		COUNTRY		PROVINCE	
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GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES				MAP REFERENCE	
TITLE					
(3) Road through woods west of Bella Vista Estancia					
work print					
DATE OF PICTURE		SOURCE OF PICTURE			
CLASSIFICATION					
CAPTIONED BY				VERIFIED BY	
FORM NO. 60-83 SEP 1948					
CAPTION REPORT					



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AREA (AMS NO.)		COUNTRY		PROVINCE	
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GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES				MAP REFERENCE	
TITLE					
(5) Estancia Bella Vista building					
work print					
DATE OF PICTURE		SOURCE OF PICTURE			
CLASSIFICATION					
CAPTIONED BY				VERIFIED BY	
FORM NO. 10-53 SEP 1948					
CAPTION REPORT					



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TITLE:					
(6) logging operations					
work permit					
DATE OF PICTURE		SOURCE OF PICTURE			
CLASSIFICATION					
CAPTIONED BY				VERIFIED BY	
FORM NO. SEP 1948 80-83		CAPTION REPORT			



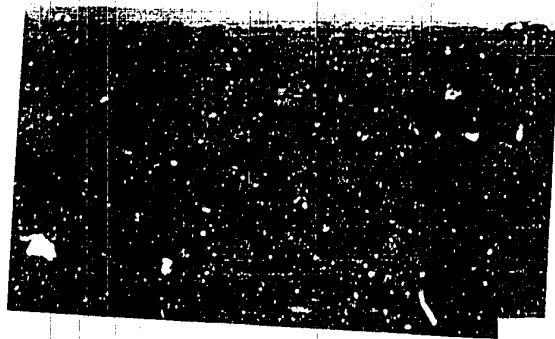
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DATE OF PICTURE		SOURCE OF PICTURE			
CLASSIFICATION					
CAPTIONED BY		VERIFIED BY			
FORM NO. 60-83 SEP 1948		CAPTION REPORT			



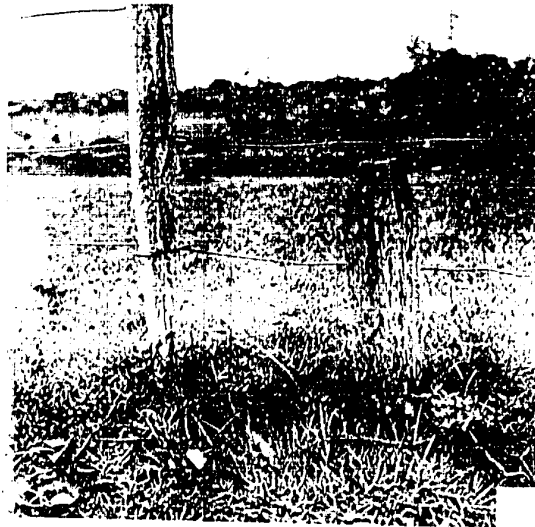
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FORM NO. 80-83 SEP 1948				CAPTION REPORT	



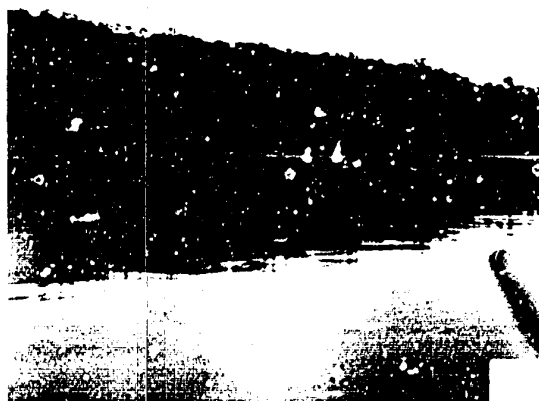
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(11) Logging operations					
Wp.					
DATE OF PICTURE		SOURCE OF PICTURE			
CLASSIFICATION					
CAPTIONED BY				VERIFIED BY	
FORM NO. 10-83 SEP 1948				CAPTION REPORT	



CIA PHOTO ACCESSION NO.		LOT NO.		DATE	
AREA NAME NO.		COUNTRY		PROVINCE	
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GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES				MAP REFERENCE	
TITLE					
(12) Ant hills on plain at 2.20 miles					
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DATE OF PICTURE		SOURCE OF PICTURE			
CLASSIFICATION					
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FORM NO. 80-83 SEP 1948		CAPTION REPORT			



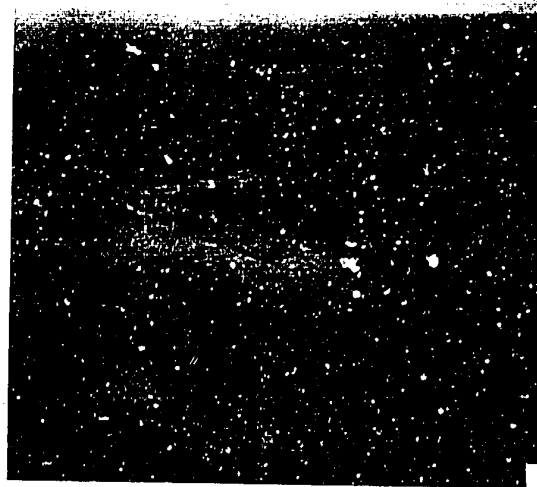
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DATE OF PICTURE		SOURCE OF PICTURE			
CLASSIFICATION					
CAPTIONED BY			VERIFIED BY		
FORM NO. SEP 1948 40-53		CAPTION REPORT			



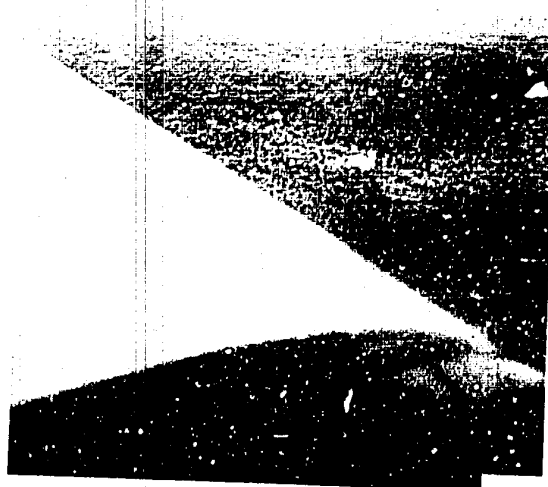
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GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES		DATE OF REPORT			
TITLE					
(23) Parana River bank					
up					
DATE OF REPORT		SUBJECT OF REPORT			
CLASSIFICATION					
APPROVED BY		DATE			
FORM NO. 60-53 SEP 1946					
CAPTION REPORT					



1A PHOTO DESCRIPTION		1B TITLE		1C DATE	
2A SUBJECT		2B LOCATION		2C COUNTRY	
3A ORGANIZATION		3B EQUIPMENT		3C DEVELOPER	
TITLE (24) Parama River bank wp					
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH					
CLASSIFICATION					
CAPTION REPORT					
FORM NO. 60-52 SEP 1948					

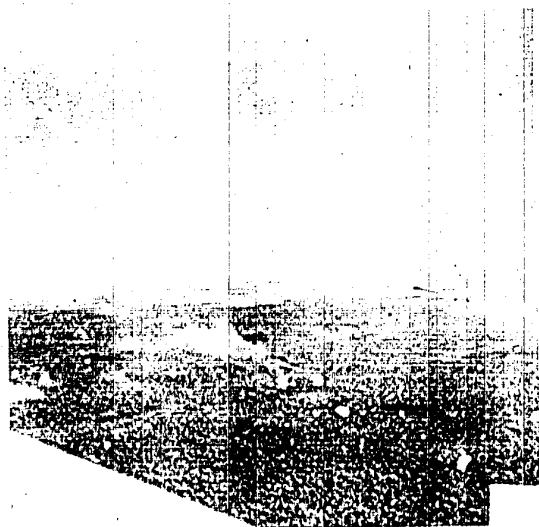


DATE OF PHOTO		LOCATION		SUBJECT	
TIME		COUNTRY		STATE	
DESCRIPTION - HOW LOCATED				HOW CAPTURED	
<p>(26) Clearing about 40 kms west of Herandarias from plane. on flight over Presidente Franco along road bet Acaray + Monday Rivers.</p>					
DATE OF REPORT		BY			
CLASSIFICATION		<p><i>Wp</i></p> <p><i>Kadey</i></p>			
CAPTIONED BY		REVIEWED BY			
FORM NO. 60-51 1P 1948		CAPTION REPORT			



1. PHOTO ACQUISITION NO.		2. DATE	
3. AREA NAME	4. LOCATION	5. NUMBER	6. PAGE
7. DESCRIPTION		8. COMMENTS	
(27) Area west of Hernandezias			
Wp			
9. DATE OF PHOTO		10. PHOTO REF.	
11. CLASSIFICATION			
12. CAPTIONED BY		13. CHECKED BY	
FORM NO. 60-53 SEP 1948		CAPTION REPORT	

1A PHOTO ATTACHED		1B NO.		2C	
AREA - IMP.		SUBJECT		PROJECT	
REMARKS - DISSEMINATED					
(28) Area west of Hernandezias					
wps					
DATE OF REPORT		REPORT NUMBER			
CLASSIFICATION					
APPROVED BY		OFFICIAL USE ONLY			
FORM NO. 60-53 SEP 1948					
CAPTION REPORT					



CIA PHOTO ATCH. (ON FILE)		DATE	
AREA NAME	LOCATION	COORDINATES	DATE
GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES		DATE	
TITLE			
(29) Area west of Hernandez			
wps			
DATE OF PHOTO		DATE OF REPORT	
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99. AREA OF ORIGIN		100. DATE	

30 negs for
4x6 work prints
to be numbered to
correspond to numbers
on negatives —

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